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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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GREGORY J. ROSINE, DIRECTOR

March 16, 2001

The Honorable Philip E. Hoffman, Chair
Senate Appropriation Subcommittee
on Transportation
Michigan State Senate
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

The Honorable Scott Shackleton, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Transportation
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Senator Hoffman and Representative Shackleton:

Public Act 271 of 2000, Sec. 329 states:

The department shall continue its program to increase the use of women and minority owned businesses in state and local road construction projects. This program shall comprise, at a minimum, outreach and education efforts to inform women and minority owned firms of department competitive bidding processes and requirements, and an assessment of the availability of surety for women and minority owned businesses. The department shall report by March 31, 2001 to the house of representatives and senate appropriations subcommittees on transportation and the house and senate fiscal agencies of its progress in complying with this section.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) is committed to increasing participation of minority and women owned businesses in state and local road construction projects.

Toward this goal, MDOT's outreach activities held during FY 2000, included 13 Business Opportunity Forums sponsored by MDOT, Michigan Department of Management and Budget, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and other state and local partners. As a result of MDOT's participation, 108 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification applications were requested and mailed. Sixty-five of the requests were from firms in the construction area.

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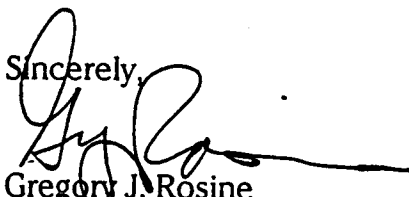
OEO also participated in other outreach activities sponsored by the Association of Underground Contractors, Michigan Minority Business Development Council, the Fourth Annual Minority Business Development Conference with Lewis College of Business, and the Michigan Road Builders Association. As a result of the activity 47 DBE applications were requested and mailed to minority and women owned businesses. Thirty-four of the requests were from firms in the construction area.

In total for calendar year 2000, there have been 155 requests for DBE applications, and 99 of the firms' work categories are in the construction work category. OEO has certified 44 new firms in the DBE Program for FY 2000.

The DBE Program held their Annual Business Development Conferences at two locations for attendance by minority and women owned businesses. The conferences, entitled "Keys to Success," were held in Novi and Mt. Pleasant. Sessions held at these conferences were to strengthen and encourage bidding participation in local road construction work in Michigan. Session topics included: Prequalification, Employment Issues, Surviving a MIOSHA Audit, Navigating with MDOT and Beyond, Strategic Planning, Project Scheduling, Cost Estimating, Business Planning, Getting and Keeping Our Attention, Outshining the Competition, and Show Me The \$\$\$.

For FY 2000, the Education and Training Program received 241 applications for reimbursement of training sessions attended by certified DBE firms. Two hundred and ten applications were approved for training in areas that provided assistance to the firms to help in their goals to become self-sufficient in today's competitive marketplace.

Sincerely,



Gregory J. Rosine
Director

BFA:FOD:ET:kv

cc Gary S. Olson, Director
Senate Fiscal Agency
Mitchell Bean, Director
House Fiscal Agency

bcc D. Novak
W. Niles
E. Timpf